GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR REFERENCES
IN HISTORY RESEARCH PAPERS

I. FOOT/ENDNOTES.

Notes can be either at the bottom of the page (footnotes) or collected at the back of the paper, after the main text (endnotes).

The general form for first references to books is as follows: Robert M. Fogelson, Downtown: Its Rise and Fall, 1880-1950 (New Haven, 2001), 10. Sometimes references also include the name of the publisher, i.e. (Yale University Press: New Haven, 2001). If the next source cited is the same, it should be cited as “Ibid.” or, if the page changes, “Ibid, 32.” If you cite the same book later, after citing other works, use a short version, i.e. “Fogelson, Downtown, 73.” A “p.” or “pp.” for “page” or “pages” can be inserted before the page number. Sometimes authors use roman numerals for volumes and Arabic numbers for pages, as in the next example.

Articles in professional journals are cited as follows: Winthrop D. Jordan, “Familial Politics: Thomas Paine and the Killing of the King, 1776,” Journal of American History, LX (1973), 294-309. Again, if you refer to the same article in the very next reference, use “Ibid.” or “Ibid., 300.” If you want to cite an article again after having cited other sources in intervening notes, use a shortened version of the first reference as follows: Jordan, “Familial Politics,” 300.

Articles in newspapers can be cited as follows: “Rioters Ravage Chicago,” New York Times, July 15, 1919, p. 1. Thereafter you normally use “Ibid.” or cite the newspaper, date, and page. Where the author is important, he or she should be included: Samuel Adams, “What I Saw at the Boston Massacre,” Boston Gazette, April 5, 1770, p. 2. A subsequent citation where “Ibid.” is inappropriate might be Adams, “Boston Massacre” or Boston Gazette, April 5, 1770, p.2. If you use a quotation from a secondary account, say that: Chicago Tribune, April 1, 1890, cited in Fogelson, Downtown, 51.

Documents in printed (or website) collections must be identified: Virginia Bill of Rights, June 12, 1776, in Samuel Eliot Morison, ed., Sources and Documents Illustrating the American Revolution..., 2nd ed. (Oxford and New York, 1929), 149-51. Here, as in all foot/endnotes, the rule of thumb is that you should give what information your readers will need if they want to find your source and check it out themselves.

II. BIBLIOGRAPHIES.

Where possible, separate primary and secondary sources. Bibliographies are arranged alphabetically by the authors’ last names, for example:

Primary Sources:
(Do NOT cite articles separately here; you do that in footnotes, as you use them.)

Secondary Sources:
Fogelson, Robert M., Big-City Police. Cambridge, 1977. (OR Harvard University Press; Cambridge, 1977.)